7.05 lakhs solar lanterns, 7148 SPV pumps, 6.17 lakh solar cookers and 2.3 million square meter collector area for solar water heating have been installed. Further, 3368 remote villages and 830 hamlets have been electrified through renewable energy so far.

Scheme for wind and solar energy

†2881. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state the steps Government intends to take to popularize the schemes with regard to wind energy, solar energy, biogas etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): The Government has taken several measures to popularize the use of renewable energy systems/devices in the country which include the following:

— Fiscal and financial incentives, such as, capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, nil/concessional excise and customs duties;

— Preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power in most potential States;

— Extensive publicity and awareness on the use of renewable energy systems/devices through print, postal and electronic media;

— Organisation of special events like the Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas;

— Constitution of District-level Advisory Committees in the States to facilitate effective coordination of renewable energy schemes/programmes.

Action Plan for Development of Alternative Energy Sources

2882. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that renewable energy is fast picking up in the world;

(b) what is the action plan of Government to develop this source of energy in a big way, to serve as an alternative source in the coming years; and

(c) the action plan of Government to exploit this potential in Orissa which has a vast scope in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. The rising oil prices coupled with environment concerns are leading to increased interest worldwise in the harnessing of renewable energy sources.

(b) During the 11th Plan period it is proposed to add power generation capacity of 15,000 MW from renewable sources and deploy 11.6 million sq. meter of solar thermal collector area for water heating, cooking, drying applications and 2 million cubic meter aggregate capacity of family type biogas plants. Provision of renewable energy systems for electricity/ lighting and other uses in 10,000 remote villages is also envisaged.

(c) The exploitation of the potential of various renewable energy sources in a particular region lies with the respective State Governments depending on their perceived energy needs, energy supply options and priorities. However, the Electricity Act, 2003 mandates all States to fix a certain minimum percentage for purchase of power from renewable energy sources in the area of distribution licensee depending on resource availability and local conditions. In this regard, the State Government of Orissa has fixed a minimum renewable power purchase obligation of 450 million units per annum. The Central Government is supporting all such efforts for exploitation of renewable energy potential by way of various fiscal and financial incentives under different schemes/programmes.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.